M&O QL 671 .G84 November 198/ Number 10 Volume 69 Berkeley, California Golden Gate Audubon Society

### A BIRD IN THE HAND

Haven't you ever wished to own a print of one of those beautiful bird photographs in AUDUBON magazine? Now, you will have the opportunity to do so. At our November 12 meeting, Thursday at 7:30, held at Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley, you will see photographs of such shorebirds as the Avocet, the Black-necked Stilt, and the Dunlin, which are appearing in the November issue of AUDUBON. Then, because of a special arrangement that will benefit GGAS, you can order prints of any of the birds shown in a signed, limited edition (see inside, page 141, for more details about this offer). Tom Rountree, nationally prominent bird photographer, will present his photo-essay "South Bay Album", a superb exhibit of shore and water birds of the south bay wetlands, one that is guaranteed to make you gasp in appreciation. More than mere bird pictures, these Rountree photographs will please you with their exquisitely rendered detail and their abstract, sculptured forms, all photographed from an intimate angle akin to the bird's perspective, right down there at the water and shore level. Come to what promises to be a memorable aesthetic experience, one that you can hang on your walls.

TOM WHITE—PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

#### **VINTAGE BIRDS**

Starting a new tradition, come spend Saturday, November 21, birding in the morning, followed in the afternoon by a tasting of some of the fine wines from George Peyton's infamous cellar—and at the same time you will help GGAS meet its tight budgetary needs!

This special outing will be strictly limited to the first 20 friends of birds and wine to sign up. Send your tax-deductible donation of \$17.50 made payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society to our office and we will send you all of the information on the outing, which will be in one of the best birding areas of Marin County. Call 843-2222 with questions.

GGAS President Arthur Feinstein updates the state of Audubon. See page 139.

#### FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

Saturday, November 7—Birds of Strybing Arboretum, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. Meet at 8 a.m. at the front gate near Ninth Ave. and Lincoln Way. We will look for birds in the various habitats of the Arboretum. Beginners welcome! Leader: Alan Ridley (566-3241). (~)

Wednesday, November 11—Mini-trip to Aquatic Park, Berkeley and other nearby shoreline areas. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the northwest corner of Spenger's parking lot to carpool. We should see returning shorebirds and migratory ducks. Lunch optional; rain cancels trip. Leader: Anna Wilcox (351-9301).

Saturday, November 21—Vintage Birds. See page 133. Leader: George

Peyton (444-3131).

Saturday, November 21—Beginners' Field Trip to Chain of Lakes, Golden Gate Park. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot between South and Middle Lakes near 41st Ave. and Lincoln Way. We will identify the common water and land birds of this area. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. The trip will end before lunch. Leader: Woody Kuehn (239-7914).

Sunday, November 22—Palo Alto Baylands. Take Highway 101 south to Palo Alto, exit at Embarcadero and drive east toward the yacht harbor and Baylands refuge until you reach the duck pond on the left just beyond the Palo Alto Airport. Meet here at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch, scopes and clothes appropriate for rain and mud. We should see waterfowl, rails and shorebirds. Leader: Bob Hirt (408 446-4478).

Thursday, November 26—Thirteenth

**Annual Thanksgiving outing to Point** Reves National Seashore. We hope to see all alumni of previous trips and to welcome newcomers. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal, Section H, or at 10 a.m. at the Point Reyes National Seashore headquarters at Olema. We will have a leisurely day of birding and hiking. We generally see an excellent variety of waterfowl, shorebirds and landbirds. The day will end with the Thanksgiving dinner (about \$10) at Jerry's Farmhouse (no reservations needed) in the town of Olema. Bring a light lunch, scope and clothes for cool and windy weather. Leader: Barry Spitz (454-2769).

Saturday/Sunday, November 28/29—Gray Lodge and Sacramento Wildlife Refuges. For this two day trip, meet on Saturday at 9 a.m. in parking lot #14 at Gray Lodge. Approach Hwy. 99 and follow the signs out of Live Oak or Gridley. There is a state park campground in Colusa. For those wishing to stay in a motel, the Blue Gum in Willows (916 934-5401) is suggested. From the Bay Area drive east on I-80 to I-505 in Vacaville, take I-505 to I-5 and drive north to Willows for lodging or turn off sooner for the refuges. Bring lunch, scopes and clothes appropriate for the valley in November. Allow for two and one-half hours driving time from the Bay Area. Heavy rain cancels trip. Leaders: Peter and Dolores White (229-1714).

Saturday, December 6—Monterey Bay and Coastal Areas. Meet at 9 a.m. in Monterey at the foot of the Coast Grand Pier. We will bird in this area and drive north stopping at various spots including Moss Landing. Bring a scope if you have one. Leader: Don Starks (408 371-9720). ()

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Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked ( $\checkmark$ ). Call Kate Partridge at 236-7022 and leave a message. She will call you.

Trips marked with \$ go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee.

Problems: If you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need additional information regarding a trip, call the GGAS office (843-2222).

-FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

#### **GGAS VOLUNTEERS TURN UP**

Russ Wilson, Janet Wessel, Ann Clemenza and Janet Murphy have come forward willing to become the Field Trips Committee, with Russ as chairman. We welcome them with relief and warmth. And we assure the rest of you that there are other jobs that await willing hands. You-all come, too.

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS ARE COMING!

Take a break from all of the holiday confusion which engulfs December and join us for a day in the field, counting all the birds you can find. End the day with a hot meal and the count-down. The annual events take place this year in Oakland on **December 20** and in San Francisco on **December 28**. If you have not participated before and would like to be part of the fun this year call the office, 843-2222, or send in a postcard. If you were a counter last year you can expect to receive a letter with details in late November. For more see page 143.

#### **OBSERVATIONS**

#### August 20 through September 22

Coastal fog and low clouds during much of the period enticed vagrants to the area and sent local birders to the coastal cypresses, parks and weed patches in search of "little yellow birds." As expected, the few sunny days provided little, and weekend days provided lots of data. News from the Farallones

Most of the breeding seabirds had

finished raising young by the first week in September. However, excitement mounted on the Island as migrant fall-out began. Five significant land-bird waves were Aug. 26-28, Aug. 30-Sept. 1, Sept. 8-9, Sept. 13-14, and Sept. 17-18, and it was considered a "good" fall migration. SE Farallon biologists were aided this fall by two expert British birders who were amazed at the record numbers of eastern birds, some rivaling the numbers at Long Point, Ontario, where they had spent a couple of seasons. (All SE Farallon Island information thanks to PRBO).

#### **Tubenoses through Hawks**

Four single Flesh-footed Shearwaters were noted from Eureka, Humboldt Co. to Monterey Sept. 10-20 (SJ, GSL, fide SP, RS, PRBO, ToJ). Buller's Shearwaters occurred on most pelagic trips during the period, with the greatest number being 950 on a Monterey pelagic trip Sept. 16 (RS). Observers from shore found seven Buller's off Pomponio State Beach Sept. 17 (RSTh), and 700 off Pt. Reyes Lighthouse Sept. 18 (GEw). Single Short-tailed Shearwaters were seen on Monterey pelagic trips Sept. 12 (SJ), and Sept. 16 (RS). Only one Blackvented Shearwater was noted this fall, on a pelagic trip out of Monterey Aug. 20 (SJ). Two Wilson's Storm-Petrels were found near Pioneer Submarine Canyon, off the San Mateo Coast, Sept. 6 (JM, et al.). One Leach's Storm-Petrel was seen Sept. 5, and a Least Storm-Petrel was found Sept. 12, both on trips out of Monterey (SJ).

An adult **Red-billed Tropicbird**, seen on an Oceanic trip outside the Farallon Islands Aug. 23 (PB), must have been enjoying the warm-water intrusions present off the coast during August. The **Red-footed Booby** was last reported about four miles west of the Golden Gate Aug. 20 (LDa, *fide* PBe). Up to six Cattle Egrets in Fremont August 31-Sept. 16 (RC, ED), and two on SE Farallon Sept.

Shorebirds

19, made their move early.

One Broad-winged Hawk over El Granada Highlands, San Mateo Co. Sept. 14 (JoB), and another at Pt. Reyes RCA Station Sept. 19 (BHi) were the only individuals seen away from Hawk Hill. There the high count of eleven Broad-winged Hawks Sept. 20 included two dark-phased birds (CLF).

Three Solitary Sandpipers were found during the period: Mt. View Forebay Aug. 23-Sept. 1 (PMB, PLN, ALE), Pescadero Marsh Aug. 29 (PJM, MFe), and Bolinas sewage ponds Aug. 29 (RMS). Semipalmated Sandpiper numbers decreased during the report period, thirteen being found from August 24 through Sept. 1 (mob). A Stint, either Rufous-necked or Little, was at Zmudowski State Beach Aug. 29 (RS). About 70 Baird's Sandpipers and 13 Pectoral Sandpipers continued their migration through the area during the period, with a high count of 20 Baird's at Abbott's Lagoon Sept. 5 (MFe), and 5 Pectoral's at Pt. Reyes' Spaletta slop ponds Sept.

found the coast this fall (adding to two last report period): Bolinas sewage ponds Sept. 4-13 (KHo, mob); Salinas sewage ponds Sept. 5 (fide DR); Pescadero Marsh Sept. 13-21 (RSTh, PJM); and Zmudowski State Park Sept. 19 (fide RER). Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers visited Ano Nuevo Pt. Aug. 27-31 (MSi, et al.); one was at Spaletta Plateau Sept. 6-7 (DAH, et al.); another stayed at SE Farallon Sept. 8-14 for the fourth Island record; and another was at Abbott's Lagoon Sept. 11-14 (ASH, KA, JMD). The Vallejo Ruff remained at Sandpiper

20 (SSc). Four more Stilt Sandpipers

Pt. through Sept. 20 (MB). Jaegers through Alcids

SE Farallon Island biologists spotted eleven Pomarine Jaegers Sept. 15 for an Island high count. At least twenty other Pomarines were spotted in average numbers on pelagic trips as well as from shore (mob). Parasitic Jaegers away from the ocean were represented by two at the mouth of Steinberger Slough in San Francisco Bay Sept. 12 (PJM), and 3 about a quarter of a mile inside the Golden Gate Bridge Sept. 13 (MLE). Long-tailed Jaegers were found on most pelagic trips during the period, but 15 on a trip to Pioneer Submarine Canyon Sept. 6 (JM), 30 on a trip out of Monterey Sept. 13 (JML), and 15 on a trip to the Farallones Sept. 20 (ToJ) were high single day counts. One to three South Polar Skuas were seen on most pelagic trips during the period (mob). Ten Sabine's Gulls inside the Golden Gate Bridge Sept. 13 must have surprised a boat load of observers (MLE). Two Xantus' Murrelets of the race hypoleucus were seen on a Monterey pelagic trip Sept. 5 (SJ). A Sept. 13 pelagic trip, also out of Monterey, had a pair each of Xantus' Murrelets of hypoleucus and scrippsi races. Four Craveri's Murrelets were found on the Sept. 5 Monterey Pelagic trip (SJ).

#### **Doves to Vireos**

Six to eight White-winged Doves "invaded" the coast this fall: one at Spaletta Ranch, Pt. Reyes Aug. 28 (LSi); one at Ano Nuevo Pt. Aug. 29 (PJM); one at Tennessee Valley Aug. 25 (MMe, BM), with two there the next day (MLR) and two at the Marin Headlands on Aug. 30 (CLF) which may have been the Tennessee Valley birds; one flying over Hwy. 1 just north of Marsh Road in San Mateo Co. Sept. 5 (JMS); and one near Laguna Creek Mouth Sept. 9 (DLSu). A Blackbilled Cuckoo reached SE Farallon Aug. 26 for a second Island record, and mainland birders were treated to another Black-billed Cuckoo at Pt. Reyes New Willows Sept. 12-17 (MBu, CoB, DAH, mob). This is the same location where one spent Sept. 8-15, 1980 (the third state record). A third individual out of our area was found at Lanphere Dunes Preserve, Humboldt Co. Sept. 9 (CJR).

A Chimney Swift reached SE Farallon Aug. 30, the eleventh record for the Island. Three Least Flycatchers found SE Farallon Sept. 4, 13, and 17. Twelve Eastern Kingbirds reached the Coast: five on SE Farallon Aug. 27-Sept. 18, one at Abbott's Lagoon Aug. 28 (MB), one near Baldwin Creek mouth, Santa Cruz Co. Aug. 28 (DLSu), one at Abandoned Ranch Aug. 29 (JMS, et al.), one at Nunes Ranch Aug. 30-31 (JGE, et al.), two at Bolinas sewage ponds Sept. 7 (RMS), and one at Las Gallinas sewage ponds Sept. 11 (DWm).

A Philadelphia Vireo was seen in the Nunes weeds Sept. 18 (RS). SE Farallon Island enjoyed one Red-eyed Vireo Aug. 28, and another visited Diekkman's Willows at Bodega Bay Sept. 5 (RoM,

NTC).

**Eastern Vagrant Warblers** 

The following table of warblers lists 146-147 individuals of 19 species. Numbers of individuals represent the fourth best September since 1974. Other "good" years were 1979 and 1981. What combination of factors causes more (or less) of these birds to stray west of their usual routes? The table is organized chronologically within species, except for the geographical lumping where several of the same species occur at the same site. Although SE Farallon biologists provided me with arrival dates, I have used inclusive dates here to save space. Please contact me if you want more complete information.

Tennessee Warbler (total 13) Aug. 31 Aug. 31-DPM Ft. Funston **PRBO** SE Farallon Sept. 18 Pt. Reyes-Fish Docks Sept. 2-4 PLaT, RHa Lighthouse Sept. 5-7 ASH, et al. **PLaT** Sept. 9 PEG Golden Gate Park Sept. 8 Sept. 13 mob Pt. Reyes-**New Willows** Sept. 16, 20 FR, mob Sept. 18 **GEw** 1 Fish Docks Northern Parula (total 2) **DLEd** Sept. 3-6 Lincoln Park **PRBO** Sept. 18 SE Farallon

Chestnut-sided Warble	r (total 8)	
2 SE Farallon	Sept. 9, 18	PPPO
2 Pt. Reyes-	Sept. 3, 10	PHI:
Now Willows	Sept. 19 (1)	DILI
New Willows	Sept. 20 (2)	55C
1 Lighthouse	Sept. 19 Sept. 19	fide BHi
1 Abandoned Ranch		
1 Golden Gate Park	Sept. 19-20	ASH
1 Pt. Reyes-Mendoza	Sept. 20	DCR, et al.
Magnolia Warbler (tota	l 10)	,
5 ŠE Farallon `	Aug. 26-	PRBO
	Sept. 19	
1 Pt. Reyes-Lighthouse	Aug 27	KGH
1 Nunes		RHa
1 Golden Gate Park	Sept. 4-5	
1 UV Eigeneid	Sept. 6-7	ASH, et al.
1 J.V. Fitzgerald	Sept. 13	DKe
1 Pt. Reyes-Mendoza	Sept. 14	DWm, PhR
Cape May Warbler (total		
1 SE Farallon	Sept. 18	PRBO
Blackburnian Warbler (	total 1)	
1 Pt. Reyes-Lighthouse	Sept. 13	JMS
Prairie Warbler (total 1	)	
1 SE Farallon	Sept. 6	PRBO
Palm Warbler (total 10)	Copt. 0	11100
6 SE Farallon	Aug. 31-	PRBO
0 SETATATION		FNBO
/A 04 bind	Sept. 20	4.4
(Aug. 31 bird was ear	liest ever by	
1 Sunset State Beach,	Sept. 5	DLSu
Santa Cruz Co.		
1 Pt. Reyes-Nunes	Sept. 18	RS
1 Drake's Beach	Sept. 20	DDK
1 Lincoln Park	Sept. 20	ASH
Ray-hreacted Warhler (	total 1)	
Bay-breasted Warbler (		PRRO
1 SE Farallon	Sept. 18	PRBO
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Sept. 1

	4	Nunes	Sept. 7-9 (2 9/9)	PLaT, mob		
	1	New Brighton SB	Aug. 27	DLSu		
	2	Pt. Reyes-Fish Docks	Aug. 30; Sept. 2-5	AG, WG; PLaT, et al.		
	1	Mendoza	Aug. 31	GFi		
	1	Moss Beach	Sept. 1	PJM		
	1	Lincoln Park	Sept. 3-6	DLEd		
	2	Golden Gate Park,	Sept. 3-4	DLEd		
	^	Pioneer Log Cabin	(1 9/4)	DI C WK		
	2	Middle Lake	Sept. 3-5	DLSu; WK		
	1	Wilder Creek mouth,	(1 9/5) Sept. 3	DLSu		
	'	Santa Cruz Co.	оерг. о	DEGG		
	1	Lake Merced	Sept. 5	SAr		
	1	Pt. Reyes-North Bch.		AG		
	1	Bodega Owl Canyon	Sept. 12	BDP		
		Limantour Beach	Sept. 15 Sept. 19	GFi		
	1	J.V. Fitzgerald	Sept. 19	SEF		
	1	Pt. Reyes-Drake's	Sept. 20	DDK		
		<mark>orm-eating Warbler (t</mark> Lincoln Park	Sept. 3-7	DLeD		
		enbird (total 1)	Sept. 5-7	DLED		
		Pt. Reyes-Lighthouse	Sept. 13: 19	JM: MBu		
	No	rthern Waterthrush (	total 6)			
	3	SE Farallon	Aug. 26-28	PRBO		
	1	Pt. Reyes-	Aug. 31	GFi		
		near Abandoned Be		DI 0.		
	1	Golden Gate Park	Sept. 3	DLSu		
	1	Pt. Reyes- New Willows	Sept. 14-15	ESI, PIIA		
Connecticut Warbler (total 1)						
		SE Farallon	Sept. 21	PRBO		
		(28th Island record)	·			
	Mc	ourning Warbler (tota				
	3	SE Farallon	Aug. 27,	PRBO		
		(25th 27th Joland ros	Sept. 13 (2)			
	Ho	25th-27th Island red oded Warbler (total 2				
	1	SE Farallon	Sept. 1	PRBO		
	i	Golden Gate Park,	Sept. 3-7	DLEd, et al.		
		Pioneer Log Cabin		,		
Canada Warbler (total 4)						
	3	SE Farallon	Aug. 27;	PRBO		
	4	Daiahmuth Dark	Sept. 1 (2)	Dila KO:		
	1	Reichmuth Park, Sacramento	Sept. 6-18	BHa, KGi, PDG		
		(possibly same indi-	vidual as las			
		(Poolisi) Saine Indi	+10001 05 105	· your		

## Other Vagrant and Migrant Landbirds

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak found its way to SE Farallon Aug. 25, and a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Middle Lake in Golden Gate Park Sept. 3 (DLSu), and Sept. 20 (MBu).

A Green-tailed Towhee was seen at Pt. Reyes Lighthouse Sept. 9 (TCo). Thirteen Clay-colored Sparrows arrived at SE Farallon Aug. 27 through Sept. 19, and one was at Pt. Reyes

Lighthouse Sept. 19 (BHi). SE Farallon had three Brewer's Sparrows Aug. 25, 27, Sept. 7, and two Le Conte's Sparrows Sept. 18-19, and Sept. 20-22, both juveniles. These are the second and third records of juveniles away from the breeding grounds. The mainland was treated to one Vesper Sparrow at Bolinas sewage ponds Sept. 16 (RM), a Black-throated Sparrow at Abbott's Lagoon Sept. 11-19 (KA, fide MLR, EDG), and a Sage Sparrow at San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Sept. 5 (RJ). A Lark Bunting enjoyed a weedy field north of Nunes Ranch Sept. 20 (AG, WG, mob). Bobolinks arrived at SE Farallon Aug. 26-Sept. 18. An Orchard Oriole was at SE Farallon Aug. 31. Red Crossbills continued to be seen in San Francisco through the period, with large flocks in Golden Gate Park at Chain of Lakes and at Lincoln Park (ASH).

Observers: Ken Ackerman, Stephanie Arthur (SAr), Stephen F. Bailey, Peggy Becket (PBe), Philip Bellamy, Murray Berner, John Boring (JoB), Phyllis M. Browning, Courtney Buechert (CoB), Mark Butler (MBu), Rich Cimino, Terry Colburn (TCo), John Comstock (JCo), Nancy T. Conzett, Lee Dahlberg (LDa), J. Mike Danzenbaker, David DeSante (DDeS), Elizabeth Dickey, Art L. Edwards, David L. Edwards (DLEd), Jules G. Evans, Gil Ewing (GEw), Mike L. Ezekiel, Carter L. Faust, Marc Fenner, George Finger (GFi), Shawneen E. Finnegan, Al Ghiorso, Wilma Ghiorso, Kevin Gizet (KGi), Philip E. Gordon, Edward D. Greaves, Paul D. Green, Roger Harshaw (RHa), Kevin G. Hintsa, Bob Hirt (BHi), David A. Holway, Kirk Hopkin (KHo), Alan S. Hopkins, George Hugenberg, Richard Jeffers, Tom Johnson (ToJ), Durrell D. Kapan, Dan Keller (DKe), Ted H. Koundakjian, Woody Kuehn, Jeri M. Langham, Peter LaTourette, Gary S. Lester, many observers (mob), Roger Marlowe (RoM), Peter J Metropulos, Bob Meyer, Mary Meyer (MMe), Mark C. Miller, Randy Moore, Joseph Morlan, Daniel P. Murphy, Paul L. Noble, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Steve Perry, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon report thanks to Robert P. Henderson), Lina J. Prairie, Dave Quady, C. John Ralph, David C. Rice, Fred Rice, Don Roberson, Robin E. Roberson, Mary Louise Rosegay, Phil Rostron, Steve Schaeffer (SSc), Werner Schumann, Debra Love Shearwater. Shearwater Journeys, Martin Sidor (MSi), Larry Silver (LSi), Jean Marie Spoelman, Rich Stallcup, Robert M. Stewart, Ellen Strauss (ESt), David L. Suddjian (DLSu), Ron S. Thorn (RSTh), David Wimpfheimer (DWm), David G. Yee.

Please report observations to Northern California Rare Bird Alert: 528-0288 or 524-5592.

—HELEN A. GREEN
Observations Editor
2001 Yolo Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94707

#### THE STATE OF AUDUBON

Many of you have heard rumblings, over the last few months, of dissension within the Audubon ranks. I'd like to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on the status of Audubon, and, happily, report what appears to be a very positive outcome to an unfortunate situation.

With the advent of the Reagan administration our nation's environment was facing an onslaught never before contemplated. In order to prevent environmental devastation all of the Conservation organizations in the country found themselves devoting unheard of levels of energy, time and money. National Audubon Society (NAS) has been one of the leaders in this fight to preserve the environment. NAS has been a major factor in the passage of the Clean Water Act, has led in the fight

to stop Acid Rain, and, most importantly, has been *the* leader in the fight to protect natural habitats and the birds and wildlife that inhabit them.

This takes a great deal of money. Over the last 6 years, when it has been a question of preserve a resource or conserve money, NAS has chosen to preserve the resource and then search for the money. It was essential that they take this path, but it led to several years of deficit spending. This year the NAS found itself \$2.5 million in debt.

Here the NAS Board of Directors made several serious mistakes. The primary mistake was in not taking this problem to the chapters and asking for advice and help. Instead, the Board made some drastic decisions without chapter consultation. First they reduced administrative and magazine staff. They then cut their Regional Offices and scientific staff.

These Regional Offices play a critical role in holding the Audubon organization together. Many chapters are small and not able to lead extensive environmental battles and rely on Regional Offices' help. Elimination of these offices created an uproar throughout the country. Staff, allies and friends, of 10-20 years of Audubon service were being let go.

In addition, the Board was considering altering our dues-split arrangement. This is the life-blood of chapters. For each national membership we, the local chapter, get a certain amount of money. NAS was considering changing this so that we got money only for those members we recruited. This is a small percentage of our total membership and would have essentially put our local chapter out of business. Again, another major uproar took place. So major was it that NAS was constrained to bring a group of 19 activist chapter leaders, including myself, to Washington to talk with the NAS Board in an attempt to

resolve these problems.

This meeting took place. It was a long and frank and only occasionally abusive, and very productive. I believe the results of the meeting will go far toward making NAS even stronger and more unified.

What was resolved? Even prior to the meeting, the Board realized its error in eliminating the Regional Offices. They have reinstated most of these Offices, although some realignment took place (and some people are still unhappy.) There are now 9 Regional Offices. Our Region is essentially unchanged in dimension and staff.

At this meeting, the Board, I believe, came to the realization that chapters do play an integral role in the NAS structure and must continue to do so. In recognition of this the Board tabled altering the dues-split for the present. Most importantly, they agreed that on the NAS Board there should be direct Chapter representation. To do this it is now agreed that the NAS Board (there are 36 Directors) will have at least 9 members who are elected by the Chapters—2 Board Members from each Region. So for this November's NAS election each Region will elect one Board member. As the years go by and some of these new Chapter-Board members prove effective, we can expect the number of Chapter-Board members to increase and give us even more input into NAS decisions.

This, a truly momentous decision, can only bring NAS and the chapters

closer together.

Finally, the economic picture is brighter. Through its streamlining process NAS has reduced its deficit to a manageable amount—if it can continue aggressive fund raising as effectively as ever.

The GGAS budget is still in question. Although the draconian dues-split proposal has been forestalled, we are faced with a dues-split policy whose anticipated effect will bring us a \$5-10,000 deficit. To overcome this we will need to raise more money, and most importantly, recruit new members ourselves (NAS gives us 3 times as much dues-split if a new member joins through our chapter application form). So please help us bring in new members, and if you give Audubon subscriptions as gifts please do it through our office (843-2222).

I have great hope and confidence in the future for both NAS and GGAS; please help make that a reality by continuing to support us as wonderfully as you have in years past. Thank you.

As a postscript, I urge all of you to send in the NAS proxy you recently received in the mail, and urge you to vote for the NAS slate. A few Audubon members, not satisfied with the solutions I have described, are attempting to create a proxy fight. We strongly disagree with their actions and urge you to support NAS, and ourselves. Please send in your proxy with an NAS vote. Thank you. —ARTHUR FEINSTEIN

# CONSERVATION NOTES SAN FRANCISCO'S PROPOSITION D TO IMPROVE PARKS

San Francisco voters will be faced with four bond issues this November. One of these, Prop. D, will affect three parks frequented by birds and birders. Lake Merced, Mc Laren, and Buena Vista Parks will benefit from plans for erosion control and reforestation. Urban park amenities such as additional restrooms, picnic areas, playgrounds, trails and such developments are scheduled as well. Six million dollars is slated for expenditure at these parks with substantial amounts for what can amount to habitat improvement. In the case of Lake Merced, about \$1.5 million will be made available if the bond issue receives the prescribed <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> majority.

It has long been the position of Golden Gate Audubon Society and its predecessor, Audubon Society of the Pacific, to have Lake Merced set aside as a nature preserve. Proposition D may be the first step in that direction. While urging you to carefully consider Prop. D before election day, we urge you also to write the candidates for mayor, the members of the Board of Supervisors, and the members of the Recreation and Park Commission making them aware of your interest in any and all of these parks. As yet, only fishermen have been outspoken in their concerns for better fishing access at Lake Merced. GGAS has long visited Lake Merced, Mc Laren, and Buena Vista Parks. Yet our presence is silent and unnoticed. It is time to voice our concern regarding the preservation and restoration of wildlife habitat, and our desire to have natural recreational resources available within the city. —DAN MURPHY

#### **LOCAL LEAST TERNS**

California Least Terns (CLTs) arrive to establish breeding colonies in the Bay Area about mid to late April. They are usually gone from the colonies by the end of August.

As usual, NAS Alameda had the primary CLT nesting colony in northern California. Sixty nests were made by a minimum of 57 pairs with an estimated maximum of 59 pairs being involved. There was an increase of at least four pairs over last year. It was apparent that at least 77 chicks, and probably more, fledged at this colony; reproductive success was considered good for a third consecutive year. Once again, support from the Navy and its personnel contributed a great deal toward the management of this colony; GGAS continued to help with some expenses.

The PG&E Power Plant in Pittsburg had three or four pairs of CLTs who made three or four nests. The certain

three attempts each had success and five young fledged there. There was an increase of two pairs since last year.

The Allied Chemical plant in Port Chicago had two or three nests by two or three pairs. One and probably two young fledged at this colony which appears to be frequently disturbed by predators. This is the first year since 1983 that nesting CLTs have been apparent at this colony.

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory reports no CLTs nested at Bair Island in the south Bay, for the third consecutive year.

According to the California Dept. of Fish and Game, the Metropolitan Oakland International Airport colony site had nesting CLTs.

-LAURA D. COLLINS

#### ROUNTREE PRINT SALE A GGAS Benefit

You can order prints of the exquisite Rountree photographs appearing in the Nov. *AUDUBON*, as well as those shown at our program, by using the convenient form or by calling the office. Not only will these prints adorn your home, providing endless satisfaction, but each one sold will benefit GGAS. Also, since the prints come in a signed, limited edition, they can be considered an investment which can only increase in value as Tom Rountree's reputation ascends.

Choose from two series in a mounted, unframed format: (1) the original series of waterfowl in a 10 x 14 size, priced at \$50 each; (2) the new series, size 16 x 20 for \$125 each. Prints are also available framed at an additional cost. (For details call the GGAS office, 843-2222.)

#### **UNWANTED COPIES OF AUDUBON**

Find a home for old copies of *AUDUBON* at the GGAS office. The copies turned in will be used in membership recruiting.

#### **BACK YARD BIRDER**

When we think of birds, we most often conjure up a picture of feathered creatures in flight. Actually, birds seem to be at least as well adapted to life on the ground or in the water as they are to an aerial existence. Swifts are an exception since they have poorly-developed feet, modified for clinging, the only kind of perching that they do. In fact, swifts feed, bathe, drink, gather nesting material, copulate and even sleep on the wing! Conversely, gulls seem equally adept at life on land, water or in the air. And then there are a number of species which have lost the ability to fly.

The first known bird, ARCHAEOP-TERX, was a poor flier which barely managed to glide from tree to tree. Terrestrial flightless birds have developed protective compensations for their inability to take to the air to escape. Great size protects our present-day Ostrich, Emu, cassowaries and rheas from most predators. The now extinct Elephant Bird of Madagascar was supposed to have weighed ½ ton and the Australian moas were as tall as 13 feet! If it weren't for the callousness of man along with his dogs, cats, pigs, and rats, these birds, as well as the Dodo and Great Auk might still be alive. On isolated islands and lakes, populations of flightless grebes, cormorants, ducks and rails have evolved in the absence of predators. Obviously they are at risk today. And in New Zealand, kiwis have survived mainly because of their secretive nocturnal behavior.

Most of the flightless species lack a keel or breastbone to which the pectoral or flight muscles attach. Unique, however, are penguins. They cannot fly but they have a keel and flight muscles. Their wings have become flippers with which they literally fly through the water rather than the air. They reach great speeds with little effort and are great fun to watch—which I did on a recent visit

to Boston's aquarium where you can observe from above.

Some birds are not completely flightless but prefer other methods of escape. e.g. Vultures and albatrosses are powerful fliers under proper conditions but are unable to get off the ground at times. Many cuckoos are graceful fliers and migrate long distances but anis, a cuckoo species, are barely able to cross a road despite furious flapping of stubby wings followed by long glides. Roadrunners, also a member of the cuckoo family, are a bit more accomplished at flying but almost never do, preferring to literally run for their lives in some cases. They have been clocked at 15 m.p.h.

Although bats (mammals) and many insects (arthropods) are accomplished fliers, there is little doubt that among birds, flight has achieved its greatest refinement and versatility. But let us not ignore the few interesting birds which are hopelessly earthbound.

-MEG PAULETICH

#### **BLUEBIRD BOXES**

Sometime back we noted that Donald Yoder of Rossmoor in Walnut Creek was actively promoting bluebird houses. He has placed 57 and monitors them. This year only seven pair of bluebirds nested in the boxes, fledging 28 birds. However, other birds found the houses appealing: titmouses, swallows, chickadees, nuthatches and wrens.

Readers of *The Gull* reported only two other Bluebird trails, one near Sea Ranch and one in Woodside.

#### **CONTINENT-WIDE FEEDER COUNT**

The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and Canada's Long Point Bird Observatory invite people with feeders to join in a survey which they call Project Feeder Watch. It is similar to Ontario's ten-year survey, in which 500 participants annually have shown that male Evening Grosbeaks winter farther

south than females, Black-capped Chickadees are found in low number when Evening Grosbeaks are abundant, and numbers of many species at feeders parallel those found on Christmas Bird Counts.

If you want to participate, send your name, address and \$7 registration fee to Project Feeder Watch, Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithica, NY 14850. In return for your observations you will be sent an annual newsletter and report on the season's results.

### SOUTHEAST ASIAN BIRDING

This reminder of the Feb. 2-25, 1988

special tour is for those who want to see wildlife and also spend some time both shopping and sightseeing in some of the most picturesque areas of the world. This GGAS sponsored extended field trip will visit Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore. Included will be stays at the National Parks of Thailand and Malaysia, where there are still chances of seeing tiger, elephant and monkey. The birds of these areas are particularly colorful and unique, including hornbills, minvets, babblers, leafbirds, bulbuls and frogmouths. Leader: Chris Carpenter. Price \$3450.

#### **GGAS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 1987**

#### **OAKLAND**

The Oakland CBC this year is Sunday, December 20. The 15-mile diameter count circle, centered in Oakland, stretches from Lafayette to Yerba Buena Island, and from Pt. Isabel in Albany to San Leandro. Habitats range from open bay to redwood forest. This large area is divided into smaller territories, each assigned to a group of counters who search out and count as many species and individuals as they can find. Ambitious birders are out before dawn counting owls too. Those who have active feeders inside the circle can help by keeping a feeder tally on count day.

Last year the S.F. count offered a CBC T-shirt for sale, designed by Alan Hopkins, to help offset the cost of the count. What a splendid plan! Oakland CBC is blatantly copying the idea and will have a T-shirt designed by Deborah Cotter for sale this year. Because Oakland has long been considered the Brown Towhee capitol of the world, the design features **Brown Towhees.** An order form will be enclosed with the CBC letters sent out in late November and will also appear in the December *Gull*.

The count area is large—177 square miles—and we need your help. You don't

need to be an expert to participate. If you are new to birding you will be assigned to a more experienced leader. Please phone the GGAS office (843-2222) if you can help in any way. More details in the next *Gull*. **Compiler:** Helen Green (526-5943).

#### SAN FRANCISCO

The fifth San Francisco Christmas Bird Count will be held on Monday, December 28. The 1987 "City Count" promises to be as exciting as the others. Teams will cover the Peninsula from San Bruno to the Golden Gate. Birders who can't get free from work are urged to participate during the early morning or during lunch hours. This arrangement allows us to cover small parks and open spaces near business and industrial areas which would otherwise be missed. We cannot over-emphasize the importance of this type of participation in areas such as downtown San Francisco.

The availability of a boat or boats continues to be an uncertainty. We need one to cover the ocean portions of the count circle and we may need one for the Bay. Though we gained a few feeder counters last year, we continue to need large numbers of participants who can give a half hour or more at their feeders. Last

year the count's only Band-tailed Pigeons were reported from a feeder. We know from birdseed sales there are many feeders in the count circle. Perhaps this is the year to get involved. If you feel uncertain about being a feeder counter, just call Dan Murphy

just call Dan Murphy.

Once again, we will offer a San Francisco Christmas Bird Count T-shirt. Designed by Alan Hopkins, it will help offset the cost of the count. An order form will accompany the CBC letters and will appear in *The Gull* for December.

CBC letters should be mailed in late November or early December. If you don't receive one please call a compiler after the beginning of December. If you can help with a boat please call a compiler immediately. We hope to see you at the countdown. **Compilers:** Dan Murphy (564-0074) and Alan Hopkins (664-0983).

#### WETLANDS SYMPOSIUM/WORKSHOP

National Audubon is co-sponsoring a two-day program on coastal wetlands for teachers K through 12. More than 80% of California's wetlands have been paved, built up or filled in. Development threatens the rest. What and where are our wetlands? Why should we prize them? What does current research tell us. and how can we communicate the critical issues to our students? A symposium Saturday Nov. 14 from 8 a.m to 5 p.m. at the Monterey Bay Aquarium followed by a workshop Saturday Nov. 21 at several locations (Elkhorn Slough Visitors Center, Alviso Education Center, Baylands Center, Crab Cove Center, Hayward Shoreline Park, Richardson Bay Audubon Center, San Francisco Bay Model at Sausalito) or Saturday, Dec. 5 at Coyote Pt. Museum or Saturday Dec. 12 at the Refuge Center, Fremont. A \$15 fee covers both symposium and workshop. Reservations may be made by phone to (408) 649-3133.

## CHRISTMAS BIRDATHON IN COSTA RICA

The Organization for Tropical Studies, Inc., with offices in Durham, N.C., and Costa Rica and with participation of major Universities from Arizona to Yale, is announcing a fund raiser in support of tropical rain forest conservation. The goal is to build a Park Protection Endowment Fund to contribute toward protection of forest parks in the world tropics. Braulio Carrillo National Park in Costa Rica is a spectacular example.

This year's La Selva Christmas Bird Count, led by Dr. Gary Stiles, co-author of the soon to be published *Birds of Costa Rica*, invites direct participation (write air mail, Dr. D. Clark, La Selva Biological Station, OTS, Apartado 676, 2050 San Pedro, Costa Rica) in which case there is a tour package available, or by making a pledge to contribute based on the number of species seen. A pledge letter may be sent to Dr. Donald Stone, OTS, P.O. Box DM, Duke Station, Durham NC 27706, specifying an amount per species or enclosing a direct



donation.

Bare-necked Umbrellabird by Dana Gardner

### HOLIDAY GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

Give a memorable gift to friends and relatives for the upcoming holidays. Give a membership in the Audubon Society at a low introductory rate of \$20. Your gift, of the magazine *AUDUBON* and the local chapter newsletter, will last the entire year. It will benefit GGAS if you order it through the chapter office. We will mail a gift announcement card in your name. To order, phone GGAS at 843-2222.

### SHOP GGAS THIS GIFT-GIVING SEASON

We have stocked a supply of books especially for northern California birders, also calendars, T-shirts and other special gifts. (See page 147.) You may also order unique shorebird or duck photographic prints by Tom Rountree. Call 843-2222 for gift ideas and order forms.

#### NATURAL EXCURSIONS

The latest (Fall-Spring) catalog of PRBO's Natural Excursions is in this week's mail: two Hawaiian trips are offered, Nov. 21-29 and Nov. 20-Dec. 5. If interested call 868-1221 for details and reservations.

David Shuford will lead a visit to the Great Basin desert Nov. 26-29. \$210 (less for members of PRBO) includes three hot lunches and three nights at motels.

For reservations or for a copy of the brochure write PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

## NATIONAL AUDUBON'S ROWE SANCTUARY

Can you imagine half a million Sandhill Cranes? That is the estimate of the number that use the Rowe Sanctuary on the Platte River as a staging area. A slide illustrated lecture by Ken Strom, Sanctuary Manager, "Sandhill Cranes and the Platte River", will be presented at Baylands Interpretive Center, Palo Alto, under the sponsorship of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society.

There will be refreshments at 7:30 and the lecture will be at 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23. To reach the Center take Hwy. 101 to Palo Alto, exit at Embarcardero and go east toward the Bay on Embarcadero Road.

#### NOT TO BE MISSED!

For those interested in state water issues, the last three lectures of a series sponsored by the California Water Policy Group will be held November 4, 11, and 18 at 7:30 p.m. in 105 Northgate Hall,

U.C. Berkeley. The lectures are dynamite and feature the most knowledgable speakers examining controversial water issues. Call 549-2821 to reach the Group and become informed on policies which will directly impact your lives!

#### **GGAS BIRD CLASS REMINDER**

Ornithology classes start Nov. 3 through the San Francisco Community College. See *The Gull* for October for details or call the college office at 776-8247 for information and pre-registration.

#### FREMONT BIRDING CLASSES

The Fremont Adult School and instructor Alice Hoch will offer a series of six birding classes covering field identification, life styles, and ecology of local birds. Each class will visit a different birding spot. The class will meet Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to 12:30 with registration at 9:30 a.m. on the first day of the series in room 1 of the Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont. Classes are limited.

Tuesday, Nov. 3 is the first class. (There will be no class on November 24th.) Bring binoculars and be prepared to bird that day. For information phone the school at 791-5841.

## FIELD TRIP: WATERBIRDS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY

On Saturday, Nov. 21, Alice Hoch will lead a one-day workshop on the field identification of local shorebirds, ducks, gulls and other land and water birds. It will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The trip requires pre-registration, and a fee of \$14.50. Send your check with a stamped, addressed envelope, to the Adult School.

The trip will be leaving from the flagpole at the school at 9 a.m. Students should bring field guides, binoculars, scopes, snacks, lunch, and beverages. Wear comfortable, sturdy shoes. For information phone 791-5841 or 657-0475.

#### **NEWS FROM THE RANCH**

Audubon Canyon Ranch

Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach (415) 868-9244 Wildlife Sanctuaries & Centers for Nature Education Under Joint Sponsorship of Golden Gate, Madrone, Marin and Sequoia Audubon Societies Rick Baird, Chairman

At Bolinas—Dr. Rudolph Becking, Professor Emeritus at Humboldt State University, is continuing his study of the redwood grove in Picher Canyon. The first stage of charting and mapping each of the nesting trees is almost completed. This will coordinate the top of the tree with its base for identification if problems occur in the heronry.

At Bouverie—the new training class is one of the largest to date with 35 new docents learning about the Sonoma preserve and how to introduce children to its endless round of life cycles.

At Cypress Point—the ACR board has hired a part time biologist to live on this preserve beginning the first of the year. His presence will provide a focus for the work of the Research Associates, while he conducts an assessment of all ACR's Tomales Bay properties, including Tom's Point, Hog and Duck Islands, the Walker Creek Delta and Cypress Point

and its marshes. He will also begin to collate information already gathered to form the foundation for future education programs on Tomales Bay.

In appreciation of the support of donors in the \$1000 and up category, ACR hosted a hike and picnic on Tom's Point in late September. The day concluded with coffee and dessert at Cypress Point for the more than 50 guests who attended.

If you would like to visit Tom's Point and Cypress Grove don't forget the opportunity to do so scheduled for November 14. It will be a day of history, hiking and naturalizing along Tomales Bay. To make a reservation call the ranch at (415) 868-9244.

The Monarch Butterfly is the subject of a class at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve on November 21. Come and learn about and see hundreds of these fascinating creatures: the incredible inedible Monarch Butterfly.

Remember there will be two Bouverie Community Hikes in November on the 14th and 28th and one on December 19th. Each hike begins at 9:30 a.m. Be sure to make your reservation early by calling (707) 938-4554.

## **GIFTS and BEQUESTS**

FOR GGAS

Gift of

Lesley N. Forden

In Honor of

Mrs. Lloyd E. West on her birthday

In Memory of

Hazel Olive Bearss

Barbara West

Don & Rosie Sanford

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1550 Shattuck Ave., #204, Berkeley, CA 94709. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull* as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

### **GGAS HOLIDAY MART**

Name								
Address								
City, State, Zip	City, State, Zip							
Telephone (day)	(evening)							
PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINTS		QUANTITY	AMOUNT					
TOM ROUNTREE 10" x 14" PRINTS	\$ 50.00							
TOM ROUNTREE 16" x 20" PRINTS	\$125.00							
BOOKS*								
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD								
GUIDE To The Birds of North America	\$ 19.00							
BIRDS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA								
An Annotated Field List	\$ 6.00							
CALENDARS*								
AUDUBON BIRDS								
AUDUBON NATURE	\$ 9.50							
AUDUBON ENGAGEMENT BOOK	\$ 9.50							
MONO LAKE COMMITTEE	\$ 9.50							
T-SHIRT*								
GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY	\$ 10.00							
GGAS "GULL" PATCH*	\$ 1.50							
FEEDERS*								
DROLL YANKEE 16"	\$ 28.00							
PERKY-PET Hummingbird Feeder	\$ 16.00							
*Price includes postage and tax.	TOTAL							

BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR CHECK WITH A STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE. You can save the cost of postage by coming to the GGAS office to shop. Open T-W-Th & F 9-12 and 1-4.

#### NOTE OF THANKS

The editor would like to express his gratitude to some of the people who help get *The Gull* to you. They include Mrs. Julie Eastwood, who has been faithfully proofreading for several years; Marvin and Ellen Calvert of Professional Press, who have been printing for us for many years; and a newcomer, a nameless typesetter who has been producing proofs with remarkably few corrections required. Among the contributors, Meg Pauletich, Helen Green, Nancy Conzett and Barbaras Rivenes deserve our

thanks. Seimens for dependable mailing service, and yes, even the US Postal Service for its recent record of timely delivery!

### GGAS CAME THROUGH FOR CALPAW

At time of publication we are assured that at least 565,000 signatures have been collected and there is no question that the initiative will qualify for the ballot. It is gratifying that a great many of the volunteers who made this effort locally were GGAS members.

## - SECOND CLASS MATTER



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. Office: 843-2222 1550 Shattuck Avenue #204 Berkeley, California 94709

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148

THE GULL

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#### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RARE BIRD ALERT (recorded) (415) 528-0288

Mall for all Individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward THE GULL. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership - local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes AUDUBON Magazine and THE GULL; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving THE GULL. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to THE GULL separately \$8 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

> The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon In 1948.

The Gull deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.